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Personal Income in Australia

Presents regional data on the number of income earners, amounts received, and the distribution of income for the 2011-12 to 2016-17 financial years

Reference period 2011-12 to 2016-17

Released 17/12/2019

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Key statistics

- Total personal income was \$856.2 billion.
- Median personal income was \$48,360, up 1.4 per cent on 2015-16.
- The largest income category was employee income, at 87.2 per cent of total personal income.

Main features

Sources of personal income

- most persons (76.9 per cent) received Employee income as their main source (up from 76.7 per cent in the previous year)
- Employee income was also the highest individual source of income, with a median of \$49,083 (an increase of 1.4 per cent on the previous year)
- the next highest source of income was Superannuation income, with a median of \$20,669 (an increase of 3.7 per cent on the previous financial year), but this was the main

source of income for only 1.7 per cent of persons (the same as the previous year)

Graph 1 - Median personal income by source

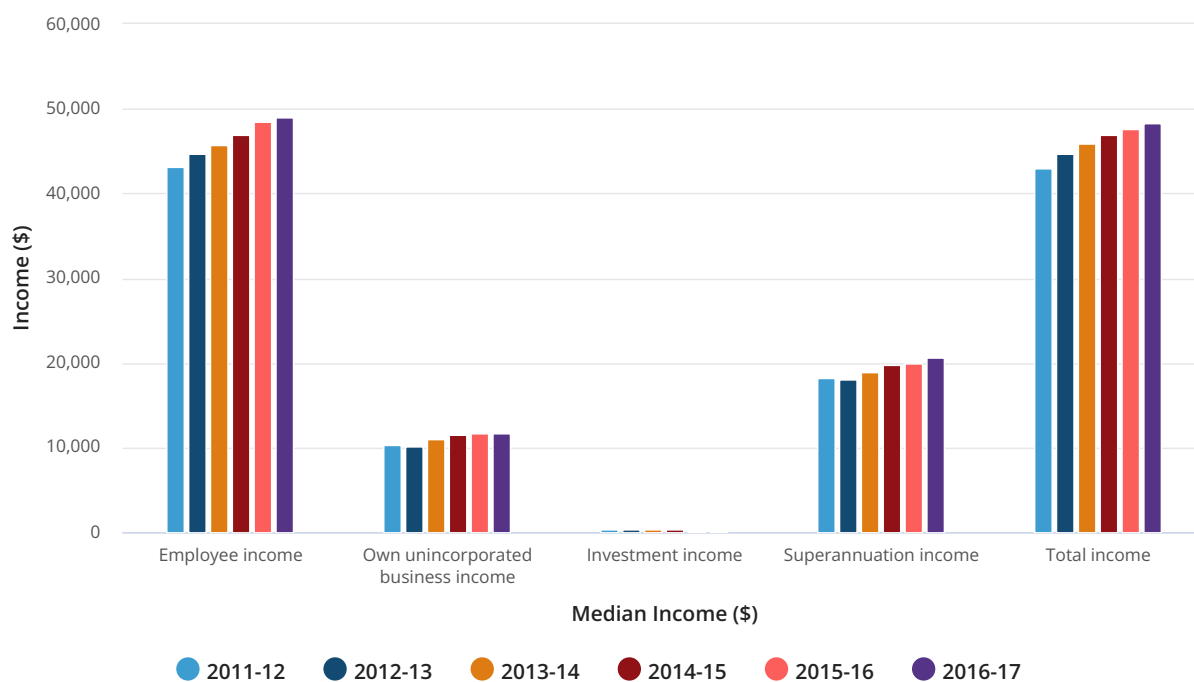


Table 1 - Distribution indicators for total personal income

	Median Income (\$)					
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Employee income	43,173	44,644	45,725	46,999	48,413	49,083
Own unincorporated business income	10,303	10,171	10,953	11,581	11,669	11,757
Investment income	392	360	337	293	242	214
Superannuation income	18,184	18,003	18,857	19,736	19,933	20,669
Total income	42,987	44,778	45,828	46,854	47,692	48,360

State comparison

- The Australian Capital Territory continues to record the highest median Total income, but the second slowest growth rate over the six year period
- Western Australia had the third highest median Total income, but the slowest overall growth rate over the six year period
- New South Wales had fourth highest median Total income but the fastest growth rate over the six year period

A selection of income indicators are presented in Table 1, providing an overview of the distribution of income across Australia.

Table 2 - Distribution indicators for total personal income

	Median Total Income	Median Total Income Growth Rate		Income Share		
	2016-17	Last year	Last 6 years	Received by top 1%	Received by top 5%	Received by top 10%
	\$	%	%	%	%	%
Australia	48,360	1.4	12.5	9.4	22.5	33.6
New South Wales	48,700	1.3	13.7	10.7	24.2	35.2
Victoria	47,709	1.5	12.6	9.5	22.6	33.6
Queensland	47,425	1.2	11.5	8.3	21.0	32.0
South Australia	46,937	1.8	12.2	7.9	20.3	31.0
Western Australia	51,450	-2.0	6.9	9.0	22.1	33.5
Tasmania	44,437	1.4	13.2	7.2	19.2	29.8
Northern Territory	58,669	-1.3	12.3	6.4	18.3	29.1
Australian Capital Territory	63,038	0.0	10.4	6.5	18.4	28.9

Local government area median total income

In 2016-17, the three local government areas with the highest median total income in Australia were:

- Ashburton in Western Australia,
- Peppermint Grove in Western Australia, and
- Roxby Downs in South Australia

The following median personal incomes are for areas with more than 1,000 earners.

Table 3 - Local government areas with the highest median total income

New South Wales		Victoria		Queensland		South Australia	
LGA	\$	LGA	\$	LGA	\$	LGA	\$
Woollahra	75,084	Stonnington	61,847	Weipa	77,798	Roxby Downs	84,659
Mosman	73,822	Yarra	60,413	Isaac	68,105	Walkerville	59,114
North Sydney	73,016	Port Phillip	60,039	Mount Isa	67,255	Unley	56,603
Hunters Hill	69,778	Bayside	59,884	Cloncurry	60,951	Burnside	55,293
Lane Cove	68,030	Boroondara	57,294	Central Highlands	56,673	Prospect	54,255
Western Australia		Tasmania		Northern Territory		Australian Capital Territory (a)	
LGA	\$	LGA	\$	LGA	\$	SA3	\$
Ashburton	99,988	Clarence	48,283	Palmerston	65,231	South Canberra	77,093
Peppermint Grove	85,705	Hobart	47,903	Litchfield	61,430	Molonglo	73,026
Port Hedland	81,173	Kingborough	47,412	Darwin	59,747	Woden Valley	64,762
Karratha	78,517	Brighton	45,950	Alice Springs	56,415	Gungahlin	63,897
East Pilbara	76,076	Sorell	44,866	Katherine	53,706	Weston Creek	63,473

a. The Australian Capital Territory does not have local government areas, so information is presented at the Statistical Area 3 level.

Income inequality - Gini coefficient

The Gini coefficient is a summary indicator between 0 and 1 that indicates the degree of inequality among total incomes within a region. A value of 0 indicates that all earners reported the same amount of income in that region. Higher values represent relatively higher levels of income inequality. The following Gini coefficients are for areas with more than 1,000 earners living within them and excludes the Australian Capital Territory, which does not have local government areas.

In 2016-17,

the following local government areas had the least income inequality (the lowest Gini coefficients) in Australia:

- Brighton region in Tasmania
- Weipa region in Queensland
- Roxby Downs region in South Australia

the following local government areas, all in Western Australia, had the most income inequality (the highest Gini coefficients) in Australia:

- Peppermint Grove

- Cottesloe
- Nedlands

Data from the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) provides the best source of information for calculating Gini coefficients and measuring income inequality. As such, estimates from [Household Income and Wealth, Australia \(cat. not. 6523.0\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6523.0) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6523.0>) should be used wherever possible, particularly at the Australia, State and Territory, and Greater Capital City Statistical Area levels. Gini coefficients from Personal Income in Australia should be considered complementary information, which provide insights for lower geographic levels.

Table 4 - Local government areas with the lowest Gini coefficients, 2016-17

LGA	State/Territory	Gini	Proportion of high earners (top quartile)	Income share received by top 10% of earners	Median income	Mean income
		coefficient	%	%	\$	\$
Brighton	Tasmania	0.366	14.8	23.7	45,950	49,012
Weipa	Queensland	0.370	47.8	24.7	77,798	84,734
Roxby Downs	South Australia	0.376	51.8	22.2	84,659	87,325
Playford	South Australia	0.381	13.3	24.8	44,563	47,730
Palmerston	Northern Territory	0.381	34.8	26.4	65,231	73,505

Table 5 - Local government areas with the highest Gini coefficients, 2016-17

LGA	State/Territory	Gini	Proportion of high earners (top quartile)	Income share received by top 10% of earners	Median income	Mean income
		coefficient	%	%	\$	\$
Peppermint Grove	Western Australia	0.719	52.2	60.0	85,705	236,678
Cottesloe	Western Australia	0.706	46.3	59.7	73,123	181,139
Nedlands	Western Australia	0.668	44.8	53.3	68,874	147,811
Mosman Park	Western Australia	0.666	40.3	53.8	60,766	128,534
Mosman	New South Wales	0.664	46.4	54.6	73,822	161,608

Data downloads

Table 1 - Total income 2011-12 to 2016-17

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[1016.5 KB]

Table 2a - Total income distribution 2011-12

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Table 2b - Total income distribution 2012-13

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Table 2c - Total income distribution 2013-14

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Table 2d - Total income distribution 2014-15

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Table 2e - Total income distribution 2015-16

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Table 2f - Total income distribution 2016-17

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Table 3 - Employee income 2011-12 to 2016-17

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Table 4 - Employee income by age and sex 2011-12 to 2016-17

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Table 5 - Investment income 2011-12 to 2016-17

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Table 6 - Own unincorporated business income 2011-12 to 2016-17

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Table 7 - Superannuation income 2011-12 to 2016-17

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[1.14 MB]

All data cubes

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Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6524.0.55.002.

Methodology

[Personal Income in Australia methodology, 2011-12 to 2016-17](#)